

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08932 031540Z

50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 OPR-02

OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 TRSE-00 /071 W

----- 044240

O 031336Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9688

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8932

FOLNG FROM MADRAS TO NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA
DTD 3 JUL.

QUOTE: MADRAS 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DMK MINISTER ON CURRENT SITUATION

REF: STATE 155850; MADRAS 0886

1. FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS MADE TO ME JULY 2 BY TAMIL NADU
MINISTER OF LABOR AND HOUSING RAJARAM.

2. THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SEEKING A CONFRONTATION
WITH THE GOI, BUT THE DMK WAS AN OPPOSITION PARTY WHICH BE-
LIEVED IN DEMOCRACY AND IT FELT IT HAD TO GO ON RECORD AGAINST
THE IMPOSITION OF AN EMERGENCY IT CONSIDERED UNNECESSARY. MRS.
GANDHI WAS ANNOYED AT THE DMK RESOLUTIONS AND AT THE MORE
FLEXIBLE CENSORSHIP IN TAMIL NADU; COPIES OF ALL DMK NEWS-
PAPERS AND OF ALL PUBLIC REMARKS OF MINISTERS AND OTHERS IN THE
DMK ARE BEING SENT TO HER THROUGH TWO CHANNELS, THE CONGRESS
(R) AND THE CIB. DMK LEADERS DO NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE MRS.
GANDHI WILL FOLLOW VIS-A-VIS THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT. THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08932 031540Z

HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO DO ANYTHING AS A GOVERNMENT THAT COULD

BE USED AS A PRETEXT TO MOVE AGAINST THEM, BUT THEY ARE PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE DISMISSED AT ANY TIME AND PRESIDENT'S RULE IMPOSED. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO WHAT THEIR REACTION TO THAT WOULD BE, RAJARAM SAID: "AT THE MOMENT, WE THINK WE WOULD GO PEACEFULLY. THAT IS OUR PRESENT THINKING." IF ALL STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE DISMISSED, HE SAID, HE FELT THE DMK WOULD ACQUIESCE; IF THE DMK GOVERNMENT WERE SINGLED OUT, THE REACTION COULD BE DIFFERENT. BUT MUCH WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND ON WHETHER IT LOOKED AS THOUGH NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

3. RAJARAM SAID THE GENERAL REACTION IN TAMIL NADU TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACTIONS WAS NEGATIVE, AND THE DMK WAS FINDING THAT THIS REACTION WAS AS TRUE OF THE PEASANTS AS OF THE MORE EDUCATED. IT WAS VERY HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARRESTS OF SO MANY OPPOSITION LEADERS WAS NECESSARY FOR ANY LEGITIMATE CONCERN OVER A THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER. JAYAPRAKASH HAD AN IMPORTANT FOLLOWING IN BIHAR, MORARJI IN GUJARAT, AND VAJPAYEE IN DELHI, BUT WHO ELSE AMONG THOSE ARRESTED HAD ENOUGH POLITICAL FOLLOWING TO BE A THREAT TO ANYONE? CERTAINLY NOT PEOPLE LIKE PILOO MODY, OR S.K. PATIL OR ACHARYA KRIPALANI, WHOM HE HAD HEARD HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN BOMBAY.

4. RAJARAM RECALLED RECENT VISIT BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR KREISBERG AND PARTICULARLY KREISBERG'S QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ALLAHABAD VERDICT MIGHT GO AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER. RAJARAM SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO AT THE TIME, THE QUESTION HAD GENUINELY SURPRISED HIM BECAUSE HE HAD NOT BELIEVED THAT ANY JUDGE IN INDIA WOULD BE SO INDEPENDENT AS TO UNSEAT THE PRIME MINISTER. FROM ALL HE HAD HEARD, MRS. GANDHI WAS EQUALLY SURPRISED AND WAS THROWN OFF BALANCE BY THE VERDICT. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GROUNDS ON WHICH SHE HAD BEEN UNSEATED MIGHT APPEAR TRIVIAL, IF ONE READ THE WHOLE OPINION THE PICTURE WAS NOT ONE OF ONLY MINOR TRANSGRESSIONS AND SINHA HAD FOUND THE PRIME MINISTER GUILTY OF "UNTRUTHS" TWENTY-TWO TIMES.

5. RAJARAM SAID THINGS WERE CALM IN SOUTH INDIA AND AS FAR AS HE KNEW, GENERALLY CALM IN THE NORTH ALSO. BUT HE THOUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08932 031540Z

IT WAS CALM BEFORE A STORM.
EAVES UNQUOTE
SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, PERSONAL OPINION, TAMIL NADU, POLITICAL SITUATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE08932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-0135
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaadaiq.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 155850, 75 MADRAS 0886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF DMK MINISTER ON CURRENT SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, IN, (RAJARAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006